

Morning Highlights

July 10, 2007
Morning Highlights 2007-74

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EMERGENCY FIREFIGHTER CREWS TO THE LOWER 48

Five Emergency Firefighter (EFF) crews left for fires in Utah this morning. The Delta #2 and Noorvik #2 crews are ordered for the Jackson Fire and the Kiana #1, Koyuk and Huslia #1 crews are ordered for the Milford Flat Fire. For more information about the national fire situation, visit: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>.



Above: Members of Huslia #1 fill out luggage tags Monday in preparation for departure.
Below: The Sierra Pacific jet has just landed and the EFF crews are lining up to leave.



CONVERSION DATE

The Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG) met yesterday to discuss the conversion date for designated areas in the Modified Management Option that normally convert to the Limited Management Option on July 10. The conversion took place last night, with the exception of the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, which will remain in Modified suppression status until July 20 when there will be further evaluation. The Management Options, outlined in the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan 1998, provide guidelines for suppression agencies during the initial attack phase of a fire.

The decision to convert designated Modified lands into Limited is based on a typical Alaska fire season when weather patterns are generally not as conducive to the start and growth of large, dangerous wildland fires. July 10 is a date from which the AWFCG can decide if conversion is appropriate based on the severity of the fire season and hold off if they feel there is need.

FIRE INFORMATION

Twenty-one new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Tuesday. So far this year, 411 fires have burned nearly 264,500 acres statewide. Currently, 93 fires are active. Humans have caused 216 fires and lightning has started 195 fires.

WALKER LAKE FIRE (#462):

Alaska Fire Service Zone detection reported the fire burning on the western edge of Walker Lake. It is located on the west edge of the Gates of the Arctic Preserve located northwest of Allakaket. It was 25 acres and 100-percent active in black spruce and burning to the east. Smokejumpers responded Monday to work on structure protection and will demob today.

WHAKATNA FIRE (#465):

A jumpship reported the fire, burning in tundra and black spruce stringers and eight smokejumpers were deployed. The fire was contained Monday evening and demobilization is planned for this afternoon.

BIG CREEK FIRE (#420):

The fire showed isolated torching, smoldering and creeping with minimal growth on Monday. Progress was made shuttling the Pioneer Peak crew to secure the left flank of the fire. Two additional Type 2 crews and a Type 2 helicopter arrived. Personnel will continue securing the left flank. The fire is projected to continue creeping eastward.

CHRISTIAN RIVER (#451):

Fourteen personnel are working on the 100-acre fire. Eight smokejumpers responded to the fire Monday evening and reported it to be 150 acres and 50-percent active. Six additional smokejumpers were later deployed due to a wind shift and an increase in fire activity. The fireline held and a helicopter aided the smokejumpers with water drops.

For additional fire information, please visit:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>

For a map of where fires are located throughout the state, visit:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>

OTHER

The fire weather forecast predicts cooler weather with continued dry conditions in the north. This combined with lightning may lead to additional fires.

Pilots are advised to check NOTAMs for Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs). Fire air operations personnel ask that pilots please respect TFRs and avoid airspace over wildland fires even if a TFR is not in place because of safety concerns. For specific information, visit: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc>

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Additional References on Page 4

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
- National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/pdfs/02firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov>
- Division of Forestry, Burn Permit Info: (907) 451-2626, <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/fire/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov>

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